

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 29 are pending, of which claims 1 and 26 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 16, 22, 23, and 25 to 27 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 5,818,699 (Fukuoka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,889,325 (Uchida); claim 4 was rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,970,362 (Chakravorty); claims 5, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 28 were rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,628,178 (Uchikoba); claim 6 was rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,673,697 (Ma); claim 7 was rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,713,860 (Li); claim 8 was rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,955,948 (Asahi); claim 9 was rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,388,207 (Figueroa); claim 14 was rejected over Fukuoka, Uchikoba and Uchida in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,060,954 (Liu); claims 17 and 18 were rejected over Fukuoka in view of the Harper article and Uchida; and claim 29 was rejected over Fukuoka in view of Uchida and U.S. Patent No. 6,356,453 (Juskey). As shown above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 26 to recite that the integrated impedance converter comprises at least one inductor and at least one capacitor integrated in the substrate. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejections is respectfully requested.

In this regard, the Office Action (page 3) equates element 202b of Fukuoka, Fig. 8, to the integrated impedance converter of the claims. However, as explained in column 16 of Fukuoka, element 202b is a resistor (lines 56 to 57), not at least one inductor and at least one capacitor, as claimed. Applicant further submits that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Fukuoka to

replace the resistor with inductive and capacitive elements. In this regard, the use of the resistor in Fukuoka is not specified (col. 16, line 57, and col. 17, line 39, and col. 18, line 18). An inductor and capacitor would not be appropriate substitutes because a circuit comprising an inductor and capacitor reacts in a specific fashion to an input of time-varying electrical quantities, e.g., radio-frequency signals. The resistor 202b of Fukuoka is not disclosed or suggested to react in a specific fashion to an input of time-varying electrical quantities, e.g., radio-frequency signals.

Uchida describes a component comprising a chip mounted on a substrate (col. 2, lines 27 to 29). A wiring pattern is integrated in the substrate, e.g., Fig. 1(a). The wiring pattern is not specified. No other integrated elements apart from the wiring pattern are mentioned in Uchida. Uchida does not disclose or suggest the use of passive elements like inductors and capacitors, which could form parts of an impedance converter and which could be integrated in the substrate, as is the case in the present claims 1 and 26. Accordingly, even if Fukuoka were combined with Uchida in the manner suggested by the Office Action, the resulting hypothetical combination would fail to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of the claims. Accordingly, claims 1 and 26 are believed to be patentable.

The remaining art has not been cited for, nor does it show, a multi-layer substrate comprising at least one integrated impedance converter, where the at least one integrated impedance converter is configured to perform impedance conversion between different standard impedance levels, and the at least one integrated impedance converter comprises at least one inductor and at least one capacitor integrated in the substrate. Accordingly, claims 1 and 26 are believed to be patentable.

Finally, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. The Office Action (page 2) states that "it is unclear what sort of a device a 'ceramic microwave filter' is referring to". In this regard, Applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that one example of a ceramic microwave filter is an electronic component comprising a ceramic body, which is used to process electric signals at frequencies in the microwave range. The Examiner is invited to conduct a search of the prior art should he not be convinced that the term "ceramic microwave filter" is well known.

Each of the dependent claims is believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim, in light of the foregoing amendments, and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Please charge any additional fees, not already covered by check, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 14219-075US1.

Applicant's attorney can be reached at the address shown above. Telephone calls regarding this application should be directed to 617-521-7896.

Respectfully submitted,

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